

Local Items.

The office of the *Columbia Phoenix* is on Gates street, second door from Plain.

The Southern Express Company gave us a proof that it can make fast time, in bringing us an *Augusta Constitutionalist*, of Sunday last. This may be read at our office.

We beg to confess our acknowledgments to our fellow-citizen, Mr. W. T. Walter, for certain valuable services rendered to us in a neighboring district. We need not be more particular, in making this our public acknowledgment of a private kindness.

PUBLIC MEETING.—We have been requested to invite a meeting of the citizens of Columbia, this day, at 10 o'clock, at the Ration House opposite Dr. Geiger's office, to take steps towards an organization for the protection of the people from the outrages of riotous and lawless men. All good citizens are earnestly invited to be present.

CHARLESTON COURIER.—We are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Henry T. Peake, Superintendent of the South Carolina Railroad, for copies of the *Charleston Courier*, of the 13th and 15th ultimo. They may be seen at our office. They contain nothing of sufficient value for selection. We have an account of the celebration of the flag-raising at Fort Sumter, and a full report of Mr. Beecher's oration on the occasion. In this speech, he urges—no doubt to the satisfaction of his hearers—that the Yankee nation has always been doing the work of God on earth, particularly to his satisfaction. For which the Deity is, no doubt, especially indebted. Certainly; if temporary success is the criterion, he is right. What says Byron on behalf of a Jewish dame!

"If the good only prosper, then God is with thee;
If the slave only sin, thou art spotless and free;
If the exile on earth be an outcast on high,
Live on in thy faith, but in mine I will die.
I have lost for that faith more than thou canst bestow.
As the God who permits thee to prosper doth know."

We forget the rest, and our Byron is burned.

THE DATE TREE.—We believe that the cultivation of the date tree has been successfully tried on some of the seaboard plantations of South Carolina and Georgia. We are of opinion that its cultivation could be carried on with profit, from the Ashley to the Rio Grande. The fruit is equally sweet and nutritious, and the tree is as prolific as the persimmon. In the East, we are told by Von Martius, that the date tree has ever been considered the benefactor of mankind. The life of the wandering tribes in the desert circles around the date tree, and the Arabian poets ascribed such high importance to it, that they maintain that the noble tree was not formed with the other plants, but from the elads which remained after the creation of Adam. The Persian enumerates 360 attributes as peculiar to his palm, probably with reference to the career of the sun, for the tree is consecrated to the sun, and the fruit of the date is called *San fruit* (*Belach*). In the primitive mythology of the Hindoos we find various references to this palm.

Telegraphic.

News Items.

The Federal General Schofield commands the department of North Carolina. General Terry has been appointed Military Governor, and has issued a proclamation emancipating the slaves in that State.

It is reported that the beautiful city of Augusta is undergoing an ordeal most heart-rending, that of being sacked.

Conscription of the Negroes.

We are told that the enemy, having gathered some 2,000 negroes in Sumter, proceeded to class them, by dividing males from females and children, on the two sides of the road. This done, the men were told:

"We carry you to fill the army. We shall make soldiers of you."

To the women, they said:

"You are for the rice fields."

Such a wail, such a howl, according to our informant, as was sent up by the miserable wretches, was never before heard along the waters of the Santee. Since their departure, we are told that persons along the route occasionally pick up a miserable mother with her infant; sometimes the child alone. The latter were carried off, in many instances, when scarcely two months old.

NATIONAL RELIGION.—The *New York Tribune* contemplates, favorably, the establishment of a national religion, as a sort of sequel or companion to the national debt. This is the next thing to establishing a copartnership between Mammon and Jehovah. Whether Greeley or Bonnet shall be cashier of this proposed banking house, is not indicated, but there will be a host of tellers appointed from the press gang.

RUMORS.—The *Augusta Constitutionalist* says that a gentleman came out of Savannah, during the past week, and states that he had seen it stated in *New York* papers that France, Austria and Spain had recognized the Confederacy, and that they had agreed to sustain our Government by armed intervention. Further particulars have been related, but we refrain from repeating them until they are corroborated. One thing is certain, that there is some news behind the curtain that has led to the armistice. Time alone will develop the facts.

OUR CURRENCY.—We observe, says the *Milledgeville Recorder*, an uneasiness among many traders particularly, abstaining from selling, lest our currency may become more depreciated. There is no ground, in our opinion, in the people only prove true to themselves, to apprehend such a result. It is obliged to be whether we have peace or not, the circulation for the next six months or longer. Let the people act with becoming discretion, patriotism and judgment.

DEATH OF SEWARD.—A Confederate officer who has just returned from a flag of truce expedition to Sister's Ferry, informs the *Augusta Constitutionalist*, that the Federal Adjutant-General whom he met, says official information had been received at headquarters in Savannah of Seward's death.

Col. Wm. Norris has been appointed Commissioner of Exchange, vice Col. Robert Ould, "disabled" by parole. We understand that the exchange of prisoners will be resumed at an early day, the Savannah River being the artery of communication.

PORTS CLOSED.—The *Chicago Tribune* of the 11th instant has a telegraphic despatch, dated at Washington City on the day previous, stating that the President of the United States had issued a proclamation closing all the ports this side of Richmond, on the Atlantic and Gulf coast, and on the tributary streams, leading to the waters of both, to Brownsville, Texas, "until further notice." What does this mean?

Married.

On the 24th April, by Rev. Mr. Edwards, Mr. W. AUGUSTUS BLACK, of Columbia, to Miss JENNIE A. SHULER, daughter of Col. David Shuler, of Orangeburg District, S. C.

Funeral Invitation.

The friends and acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. James Claffy, are invited to attend the funeral of their youngest daughter, MARY ELIZABETH, from their residence, at five o'clock THIS AFTERNOON.

AUCTION SALES.

By L. T. Levin.

JOSEPH SAMSON SALESMAN.
WILL be sold, THIS DAY (Tuesday,) 3d inst., at 10 o'clock, opposite Dr. Geiger's office, About 30 pair of MEN'S SHOES.
Conditions cash. may 2 17
Unlimited articles received until hour of sale.

Sundries.

By Francis Lance.

C. F. HARRISON, AUCTIONEER.
I will sell THIS MORNING, at 10 o'clock, at C. A. Bedell's lot, 60 gross Steel Pens, 9 bunches Yarn, lot of Razors, Dressing Combs, Red Flannel Shirts, Silver Forks, Spoons, Ladles, &c. Also, a few gallons fine Whisky. Terms cash. may 2

Gold.

By Jacob Cohen.

THIS DAY, at 10 o'clock, will be sold, on corner of Plain and Assembly streets, \$200 in GOLD COIN.
1 share CHICORA BLOCKADE STOCK.
6 bales old KILLICKINICK TOBACCO.
Terms cash. may 2 17
Unlimited articles received until hour of sale.

Notice.

ALL persons indebted to the COLUMBIA PHOENIX, are requested to make immediate payment. In the future, the CASH SYSTEM will be rigidly enforced.
may 2 JULIAN A. SELBY.

A. F. M.

AN extra communication of Acacia Lodge will be held THIS (Tuesday) AFTERNOON, at 4 o'clock, at the Hall in the College Campus, for the purpose of conferring the First Degree. By order of the W. M. may 2 E. O. WITHINGTON, Sec'y.

Headq's District of South Carolina, COLUMBIA, MAY 1, 1865.
SPECIAL ORDER NO. 6—*Extract.*

BMG GEN. ALBERT BLANCHARD is assigned as Commandant of Post at Columbia, S. C., vice Col. A. F. Rudler, relieved.

By command Maj. Gen. LOVELL.
(Signed,) JOHN M. B. LOVELL, A. A. A. G.
HEADQ'RS, COLUMBIA, S. C., May 1, 1865.
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 1.
In accordance with Special Order No. 6 of General Lovell, I assume command of the Post of Columbia, S. C.
Capt. C. P. TOWNSEND, P. C. A., is appointed Post Adjutant until further orders.
ALBERT BLANCHARD,
may 2 2 Brig. Gen. Comm'g Post.